

REMARKS

In the specification, a paragraph was added to claim priority to International Patent Application No. PCT/EP2003/051024, filed December 16, 2003, European Patent Application No. 02102865.9, filed December 20, 2002 and U.S. Provisional Patent Application No. 60/435,479, filed December 20, 2002. In the claims, Claims 9 and 10 were canceled. New claim 11 was added. Claims 3-8 were amended. In particular, the claims were amended to remove any multiple dependencies and conform to U.S. practice. Claims 1-8 and 11 are pending.

No new matter has been entered by these amendments.

Applicants respectfully request the issuance of a timely Notice of Allowance in the case.

Respectfully submitted,



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